

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

549 A 7 1. A maintenance method, for use in a computer system having a remote management subsystem and an information processing apparatus provided with a communications device for communicating with said management subsystem, for maintaining said information processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

instructing from said remote management subsystem to said information processing apparatus to set said communications device as a boot device to obtain a program when said information processing apparatus is booted;

setting said communications device as the boot device by said information processing apparatus according to said instruction;

instructing a system reset from said remote management subsystem to said information processing apparatus;

resetting said information processing apparatus according to the system reset instruction; and

starting the execution of a maintenance program by acquiring said maintenance program from said remote management subsystem by said information processing apparatus with said communications device used as the boot device to boot the system.

2. A maintenance method according to claim 1, wherein said maintenance program acquired from said remote management subsystem in said execution starting

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step is a program for updating firmware possessed by said information processing apparatus.

3. A maintenance method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of controlling on/off of the power of said information processing apparatus according to an instruction from said remote management subsystem after the execution of the maintenance program is completed.

4. A maintenance method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

acquiring information about the firmware from said information processing apparatus, which has the information about the firmware, by said remote management subsystem; and

judging a program to be sent to said information processing apparatus according to the information about the firmware.

5. A maintenance method according to claim 1, wherein said execution starting step includes a step to check that the obtained maintenance program is an appropriate program.

6. A maintenance method according to claim 5, wherein said checking step includes a step of obtaining a certification file corresponding to said maintenance program from said remote management subsystem and a step of inspecting said maintenance program according to said certification file.

7. A maintenance method according to claim 1,

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Sub A 7 further comprising the steps of:

acquiring identification information, which is used to obtain said maintenance program by said information processing apparatus, by said remote management subsystem;

sending a request to obtain a pseudo maintenance program by said identification information; and

checking the presence or not of a reply to the request to obtain the pseudo maintenance program.

8. A maintenance method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

registering previously identification information of an information processing apparatus subjected to maintenance into said remote management subsystem;

receiving input of identification information for specifying said information processing apparatus prior to the instruction to set said boot device; and

judging whether the received identification information is included in the registered identification information.

9. A maintenance method according to claim 1, wherein the setting of said boot device and said reset are performed by a management agent which operates on said information processing apparatus.

10. A maintenance method according to claim 9, wherein said boot device is set by said management agent

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which calls an I/O routine of the firmware in an environment where an operating system of said information processing apparatus is operating.

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